

EXECUTIVE BOARD SENDS TWO MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS TO ASSEMBLY;
DEFICIT BUDGET AND PROPOSED REVISION OF CONFERENCE BY-LAWS

At their January 28-29 meeting, members of the Conference Executive Board were informed that OCWM goal commitments for 1983 did not meet the anticipated amount included in the 1983 Budget proposed and approved by the 1982 Fall Council. The committed goals amount to \$235,762. The Financial Support Department proposed cuts in the 1983 commitment to National OCWM support and in Conference office and operating expenses. Members of the Board were told that even with those cuts there was a deficit and recommended that Conference Departments make cuts in their program budgets, a recommendation which was rejected by the Board. Instead, the budget deficit will be presented to the 1983 Assembly delegates for their consideration and action, i.e., further cuts or increased income

possibilities. At the time the Executive Board was meeting, all sources of income, including the OCWM commitments, fell short of the projected expenses by approximately \$14,000. Several members of the Board remarked that an economic recovery during the year might make it possible for some of the churches to increase their commitment to OCWM.

MISSION AND OUTREACH, BHM
CONVENE MISSION HEARINGS
COOPERATE IN CENSUS STUDIES

On March 3-4-5, members of the Mission and Outreach Department, Conference Staff and BHM staff person, Dick McGuire, will convene mission hearings at three locations: Boise, Eugene and Portland. The purpose of these hearings is to identify the needs of people across the Conference; to learn how churches are already involved in mission outreach; and to use this information to establish mission goals and directions for the Conference. Individuals - both UCC and other - who are involved in programs responding to human needs have been invited to make brief presentations to the mission hearings. Results of the hearings will be shared at the Assembly.

In a related Activity, the M&O Department has agreed to participate in the Census Project undertaken by BHM. By so doing, census tract information for the area surrounding each of the Conference churches will be made available to each of the churches at a greatly reduced price (\$12.50 instead of \$30.00) and guides for how to use the information will be made available. In addition, a workshop on how the materials can be used will be sponsored by the Department at the Assembly.

A second major agenda item for the Executive Board was the Conference By-Laws revision proposed by the Priorities and Evaluation Committee. Considerable discussion was centered on the new procedure for electing Conference committee members; the replacing of the Fall Council with a second meeting of the Assembly; the dropping of department/committee differentiation in favor of committees; the involvement of Conference staff in the proposed structure. The Executive Board asked the Priorities and Evaluation Committee to make the changes proposed by the Board and to prepare a final draft for the Executive Committee prior to sending it out to local churches for study in preparation for action at the Assembly to be held in Corvallis.

At the Board meeting Conference Minister Don Severson announced that 1982 OCWM receipts from Conference churches amounted to \$231,650 which was \$1,350 short of the accepted goals. He expressed his feeling that this was a very strong showing in light of the economic conditions.

PACIFIC CALLS NEW PRESIDENT

Pacific University Board of Trustees have called Dr. Robert Fenton Duvall as President beginning April 1, succeeding Dr. James Miller who retired at the end of 1982 after serving in that post for 12 years. Dr. Duvall comes to Pacific from Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., where he was involved in college relations and development. Dr. Duvall, a published poet, graduated magna cum laude with Honors in English from Whitworth College in Spokane in 1962. He earned his Master of Arts degree from Claremont as well as his Ph.D. During the time he has been at Rollins, he has also served as a consultant to the Pinebrook Foundation of Pennsylvania, a member of the Board of Visitors of the Cornell Fine Arts Center-Museum in Winter Park and of the Board of Advisors of the Southern Ballet Theatre.

UCC INSURANCE PROGRAM ATTRACTS

With each passing month, more CPC churches have joined the UCC Insurance Program which has received the endorsement of the Conference Executive Board. In addition to the Conference itself, the following churches are now participating in the program: American Falls, Boise First, Mountain Home, Pocatello, Ashland, Bethel Beaverton, Forest Grove, Gaston, Gresham, Klamath Falls, Portland First, Highland, Trinity, Waverly and Wilsonville. Several churches are still considering the program.

BHM'S SPRAGG TO RETIRE

The Reverend Dr. Howard E. Spragg, Executive Vice-President of the UCC Board for Homeland Ministries for the past 14 years, has announced that he will retire later this year. Dr. Spragg played a major role in social action decisions of the 1960s and 1970s. UCC President Avery Post identified Spragg as "a central person around whom the meaning of mission has been defined boldly and imaginatively," adding, "He will leave a major legacy of leadership throughout the United Church of Christ."

Dr. Spragg will visit the Conference when the BHM Board of Directors meets in Portland in early May. An invitation will be extended to a small number of members from each of the Conference churches to attend a dinner with Dr. Spragg and members of the BHM Board.

IDAHO CHURCHES INVITED TO PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE

Dale Aukerman, author of Darkening Valley Biblical Perspective on Nuclear War, will be the featured speaker at an ecumenical peacemaking conference to be held in Nampa on May 4th, 5th and 6th. In addition to the featured speaker, participants in the conference will hear from eight other leaders who will be giving leadership to workshop experiences. Idaho Association churches should have received invitations to this event. If you have any questions, call Ellen Albus who is coordinating the Peace Priority in Southwestern Idaho on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Department. She can be contacted through Boise First.

LOVE IN DEED...

LOVE INDEED



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

United Church of Christ congregations across the nation will observe One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 13. This important all-church offering provides immediate aid to victims of disaster, help for refugees, social services for persons overseas, and development assistance in many countries.

Your gifts of love are transformed into deeds of love the world over through ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Please give generously.

The Local Scene

come to the Reverend David Smith who begins pastorate at the Hubbard Community Church Aurora Presbyterian Church on March 6.

Hendersons have been installed at CPC churches: The Reverend Harold Henderson at Stain Home and The Reverend Sallirae Henderson at Clackamas. Both were installed on January 27.

Family Life Task Force of Southwest Idaho sponsoring a series of 10 films on the universal subject, "Coping with Kids". Financial support for this project is being provided by Family Life Priority Funds from the Christian Service Department.

St. Congregational Church, Corvallis, celebrated the Epiphany Season with a Festival of Light and Crafts in which church members had the opportunity to display and celebrate their talents.

As a surprise for Ralph Shumm when members of the Forest Grove UCC gathered to honor the St. Mary's Choir. Actually the gathering was in Ralph's honor, marking the beginning of his new year as Director of the Choir. Before the ceremony was over, Ralph had been properly "kissed".

The late for the last edition of the NEWS was the announcement of the birth of Jonathan Keith on November 29. Congratulations to Jonathan's parents, Brad and Jill.

A Heideman, Church School Superintendent at St. John's UCC, had her play for adults and children, "Mary's Christmas", published in the latest issue of JED SHARE.

published was Dana Canfield of St. John's Tillamook. The January-February issue of UPPER ROOM contained Mr. Canfield's Daily Devotions.

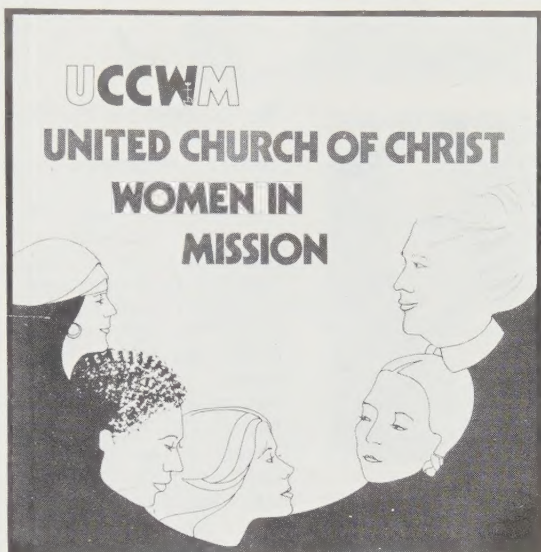
"HAVING GIFTS.....LET US USE THEM!"

1983 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

MAY 13 - 14 - 15

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

CORVALLIS



Posters began appearing in United Church of Christ congregations last fall, and for the past several months individuals and women's groups have been sending in partnership gifts and joining together in UCC Women in Mission (UCCWM).

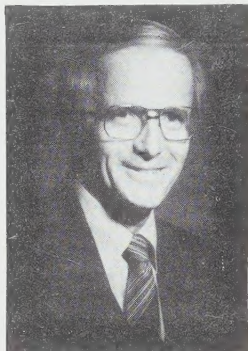
The goals of UCC Women in Mission are to support and to strengthen the total mission of the UCC; to incorporate women more fully into the life of the church; to foster growth in the faith journeys of individual women, to strengthen women's organizations; and to give greater visibility and unity to women in the national setting of the church.

UCC Women in Mission will especially work to foster partnership through improved communications among UCC women and women's groups. Leadership training and program resources for women's organizations in local congregations are key elements, as are large regional and national gatherings where women in the UCC can experience the power of sharing, supporting, and celebrating together.

For more information about UCC Women in Mission, talk to the women leaders in your congregation and conference. Or write or call:

Coordinating Center for Women
United Church of Christ
105 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016
(212) 683-5656

The Last Word



Our Conference is now able to provide the formal responses of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches to the charges leveled in the Readers' Digest ("Karl Marx or Jesus Christ", August 1982, and "Do You Know Where Your Church Offerings Go?", Jan. 1983) and on CBS "Sixty Minutes" ("The Gospel According to Whom?

January 23, 1983). We also have detailed accounting of contributions by the United Church of Christ to these two ecumenical bodies.

It pains me greatly to write the preceding paragraph. The necessity to write it means that a small group of anonymous, influential, non-accountable critics and troublemakers have achieved their first goal: They have diverted the church's scarce money and precious time from its major purpose, the accomplishment of mission, into a potentially endless task of answering distorted, unsubstantiated charges. The next goal of these people is also clear. It is destruction, not reform. Reform would make our ecumenical efforts more effective. These opponents are not interested in effectiveness. They want the church to stop opposing injustice, and struggling to reverse the sure slide toward nuclear holocaust. And the way to stop it is to destroy it.

Who are these opponents? Where do they get their money? How did an organization (the Institute for Religion and Democracy) arise overnight and, with only a handful of members, get access to powerful, trusted avenues of communication? Readers' Digest and CBS don't tell us. They ask us to trust these few people, whose background and credentials are never given, and whose assertions are never challenged or documented, instead of respected organizations whose finances are open to inspection, and whose operations are governed democratically.

Let us cherish and affirm our ecumenical relationships. Let us do so even when they cause

us to remember that many of our fellow Christians do not see the world through white, western, capitalist, middle-class lenses. Let us rejoice that the Gospel is preached, and its implications for all dimensions of life (including politics and economics) are explored, all around this globe of ours.

Write, or call, our office if you want to receive a responsible reply to these irresponsible charges. But, as you do, remember that it costs us mission dollars to respond....so, if you really care, enclose a check.

- Donald J. Severson

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